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Letter dated 1 February 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 1 February 1994 addressed to you by H.E. Mr. Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter, and its enclosures, which also contain letters dated 20 and 28 January 1994, sent to Your Excellency by H.E. Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) İnal BATU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 1 February 1994 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to annex hereto two self-explanatory letters dated 20 and 28 January 1994, respectively, addressed to Your Excellency by H.E. Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its enclosures are circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Enclosure I

Letter dated 20 January 1994 from H.E. Mr. Rauf Denktaş to the Secretary-General

Thank you for your letter of 17 December 1993. Following the elections that took place on 12 December 1993, the Parliament and the Government have now assumed office. The programme of the coalition Government, which was approved by the Parliament, empowers me again to act as negotiator in the intercommunal negotiating process. I have pleasure in informing you that I have now resumed this task. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for slowing down the negotiating process during the election period.

I am well aware that in your efforts to facilitate an overall settlement in Cyprus, as endorsed by the Security Council gives priority at this stage to measures designed to promote mutual confidence between the two sides.

The Turkish Cypriot side has been advancing the view that the deep crisis of confidence between the two sides is the main cause for the absence of progress in efforts towards achieving an overall settlement since 1968. In fact, Your Excellency has rightly pointed out in your report of 19 November 1992 (S/24830) that it is difficult to envisage any successful outcome to the talks for as long as this situation prevails. The Turkish Cypriot side approaches the agenda with these considerations and is prepared to take the appropriate steps in a constructive manner.

We have conveyed to you on various occasions our views and understandings, both orally and in writing, with regard to the confidence-building measures. We are pleased to observe that Your Excellency shares most of our understandings. We have noted that most of the understandings and concepts to which we attach great significance have been included in your reports submitted to the Security Council and in the reports of the team of international experts, the contents of which you have brought to our attention with your letter of 17 December 1993. We are now carrying out an in-depth study on these reports.

I would like to share with you once again our understandings.

One of the basic principles mutually agreed in the negotiating process is that, in the search for a comprehensive settlement, all aspects of the Cyprus question should be dealt with as an integrated whole. It goes without saying that efforts aimed at building confidence between the two sides should not in any way depart from this basic principle. We have noted that the guidelines given to the teams of international experts on the confidence-building measures package confirm this principle by specifying that the confidence-building measures package is not an end in itself nor the first of a series of mini-packages and that the integrated-whole approach to the search for a comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem will not be abandoned. We share the opinion expressed by the United Nations that confidence-building measures are intended to facilitate the political process towards an overall settlement.

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As stated in paragraph 13 of your report of 1 July 1993 (S/26026), given the purpose of confidence-building measures, it is indispensable that neither side seek any political advantage or require the other side to make political concessions in this context. In this regard, it has been made clear that neither side should be asked to adopt measures that would require it, directly or indirectly, to change its position on the political status of the other. Furthermore, the package requires that neither side compromise on its substantive political positions.

We also note your assessment that the practical effect of the implementation of the confidence-building measures package would be to lift commercial and economic obstacles, as well as those related to overseas travel, encountered by the Turkish Cypriot side.

We attach great importance to your assurances that the benefits and opportunities to accrue to the Turkish Cypriot side from the package would be significant, equal, proportionate and guaranteed.

Security concerns are vital to the Turkish Cypriot side in the search for an overall settlement. This has also been confirmed by the United Nations. The Turkish Cypriot side attaches particular importance and to its security concerns within the context of both the confidence-building measures and an overall settlement. We have particularly brought to your attention our security concerns regarding Varosha in the paper containing our questions handed to your representatives on 22 October 1993. I feel confident that our security concerns with regard to Varosha will be given by Your Excellency the due importance they deserve.

A further understanding is that the implementation of the confidence-building measures would in no way hinder the use of the existing limited capabilities enjoyed by the Turkish Cypriot side, but rather yield additional significant benefits. In fact, this has been repeatedly confirmed to us by the United Nations Secretariat. This is essential for the Turkish Cypriot people properly to perceive and appreciate the benefits to be drawn from the package.

Another point to which we attach significance is the Greek Cypriot agreement as confirmed by paragraph 24 of your report of 1 July 1993 that both sides would commit themselves to take no action of any kind that would in any way prevent, or adversely affect, the free movement of people or goods through Nicosia International Airport to and from both sides. This, in fact, has been introduced as a provision in confidence-building measures package concerning Nicosia International Airport.

With regard to the "fenced area" of Varosha, the principal objective of the confidence-building measures is that the area should have a special character for intercommunal contact, cooperation and trade for the benefit of both communities. In this respect, it is imperative that adequate assurances be given regarding the benefits that will accrue to the Turkish Cypriot side. It is obvious that this issue will also have to be discussed in detail during the negotiating process.

With regard to the implementation of the confidence-building measures package we are sure that the existing link between the "fenced area" of Varosha and Nicosia International Airport will be borne in mind. You will appreciate the need for measures that would discourage either side from taking action that would harm the benefits to be drawn from the confidence-building measures by the other. While considering the package, a key issue which needs clarification is that, in the event of the Turkish Cypriot side being obstructed from enjoying the benefits of Nicosia International Airport, then the question arises as to the status of the "fenced area" of Varosha. Our view is that, in such an event, the United Nations administration will come to an end and the area in question would revert to the Turkish Cypriot administration, pending an overall settlement.

In addition to the benefits that would accrue from measures and arrangements with regard to Varosha, I consider it unnecessary to reiterate the importance of the measures and arrangements with respect to Nicosia International Airport in lifting, through practical measures, the embargo that has been weighing so heavily on the Turkish Cypriot side.

In this connection, we attach great significance to the arrangements provided for in the package and confirmed in paragraph 23 of your report of 1 July 1993, that the Turkish Cypriot airline, as an airline registered in Turkey, will use Nicosia International Airport under the formula contained in the confidence-building measures package for the unhindered overseas travel of, and trade by the Turkish Cypriots. Needless to say, in line with the spirit of the confidence-building measures package, the citizens of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus will be able to travel unhindered to and from overseas destinations through Nicosia International Airport. It is clearly understood and confirmed by the United Nations that these arrangements concerning Nicosia International Airport will in no way affect the continued use of Ercan airport and related arrangements as hitherto.

I would like to share with you, Mr. Secretary-General, our view that, if the other 12 items of the confidence-building measures package were to be implemented while the talks are continuing, this would further facilitate the process of reaching an agreement on the package.

I am pleased to inform you that I am ready to cooperate with you with a view to reaching an agreement on the confidence-building measures package, which we accept in principle in the light of our understandings stated above. To this end, I am prepared to start talks with the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Glafcos Clerides.

I would also like to reiterate my view that, as suggested in your letter of 17 December 1993, the package should be discussed in meetings of the two leaders in Nicosia with your representatives.

I would, of course, be pleased to meet you in response to any invitation which you may wish to extend to me at any convenient time.

Finally, I would be grateful if you could kindly extend to the international team of experts, which you have sent to Cyprus, our appreciation and thanks for their devoted efforts and useful report.

(Signed) Rauf R. DENKTAŞ
President

Enclosure II

Letter dated 28 January 1994 from Mr. Rauf Denktaş
to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter of 20 January 1994 and with reference to your letter of 17 December 1993 and the press release issued in Nicosia on 26 January 1994 concerning the meetings of your Special Representative, Mr. Joe Clark, in the island, I would like to bring the following to your knowledge.

I hereby confirm that the Turkish Cypriot side accepts, in principle, the package of confidence-building measures as set out in paragraphs 37, 38, 42 and 43 of your report of 1 July 1993 (S/26026). I am ready to discuss the modalities for the implementation of that package with the Greek Cypriot leader.

(Signed) Rauf R. DENKTAŞ
President